(a) what are the various levies on the telecom sector;

(b) whether such levies stand as a great hurdle and impediment for India to attain global benchmarks of performance; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to scale down taxes in the current Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The various levies on the Telecom Sector *inter-alia* are Licence Fee (Inclusive of Universal Service levy), Spectrum usage charges, Customs duty, Excise duties, Service tax, Sales tax, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Hon'ble Finance Minister has proposed that the Department of Telecommunications constitute a Committee to study the present structure of levies on telecom industry.

Cellular infrastructure in rural areas of Orissa

2589. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DoT has short-listed 21 companies for setting up massive cellular infrastructure in rural areas with the support from the USO Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of rural segments in Orissa which would be covered under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) In addition to the existing Basic Services Operators (BSO), Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Provides and Unified Access Services Licensees (UASL), who are automatically entitled for setting up passive cellular infrastructure, 22 Infrastructure Provides Category-I (IP-Is) registered with Department of Telecommunications were also shortlisted for setting up passive cellular infrastructure in rural areas with the support from USO Fund on the basis of Expression of Interest (EoI).

(b) The details of 22 companies shortlisted by USOF aer given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) A scheme has been launched by the Government to provide support of setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites spread over 500 districts in the country for provision of mobile services including other Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile terminals in the specified rural and remote areas including Orissa, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. Total 432 number of towers are to be set up in specified rural and remote areas in 30 districts of Orissa as per details given in the Statement-II *(See* below).

Statement-I

Details of 22 companies shortlisted for setting up Cellular Infrastructure in rural areas with support from USO Fund

Sl. No.	Name of shortlisted Infrastructure Provider Company (IP-I)
1	2
1.	ACME Telepower Limited
2.	Aptel Softek System Pvt. Limited
3.	ASTER Infrastructure Pvt. Limited
4.	ASTER Teleservices Pvt. Limited
5.	ATC Tower Company of India Pvt. Limited
6.	Ericssion India Pvt. Limited
7.	GTL Infrastructure Limited
8.	HFCL
9.	ICOMM Tele Limited
10.	ITI Limited
11.	Jyoti Structures Limited
12.	McCoy Developers Pvt. Limited
13.	National Information Technology Limited
14.	NUTEK India Limited

1	2
15.	Quipo Telecom Infrastructure Limited
16.	Rail Tel Corporation of India Limited
17.	Reliance Communication Infrastructure Limited
18.	Skipper Steels
19.	SPANCO Telesystem and Solution Limited
20.	TCIL
21.	Telecom Tower and Infrastructure Pvt. Limited
22.	TVS ICS

Statement-II

Details of rural segments in Orissa to be covered under the project for setting up Cellular Infrastructure in rural areas with support from USOF.

Sl. No.	District	No. of Towers	No. of villages getting covered by Towers
1	2	3	4
1.	Anugul	11	359
2.	Balangir	21	857
3.	Baleshwar	25	1427
4.	Bargarh	28	757
5.	Baudh	2	123
6.	Bhadrak	10	639
7.	Cuttack	11	534
8.	Debagarh	2	68
9.	Dhenkanal	19	515
10.	Gajapati	9	485
11.	Ganjam	29	965
12.	Jagatsinghpur	10	477
13.	Jajpur	11	692

1	2	3	4
14.	Jharsuguda	6	140
15.	Kalahandi	28	655
16.	Kandhamal	7	310
17.	Kendrapara	12	784
18.	Kendujhar	15	570
19.	Khorda	4	244
20.	Koraput	26	722
21.	Malkangiri	13	246
22.	Mayurbhanj	18	918
23.	Nabarangapur	37	596
24.	Nayagarh	9	515
25.	Nuapada	15	331
26.	Puri	9	609
27.	Rayagada	12	393
28.	Sambalpur	10	293
29.	Sonpur	8	349
30.	Sundargarh	15	357
	TOTAL	432	15930

Profits of MTNL and BSNL

2590. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landline connections of MTNL and BSNL which have been surrendered during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the profits of MTNL and BSNL have decreased during the last three years;